



## Binghamton City School District

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January 29, 2019

In an effort to correct misinformation that has been shared regarding certain events involving four students at East Middle School on Jan. 15, 2019, the Binghamton City School District continues to strive for clarity and resolution. Facts matter. It must be reiterated, we have no evidence that a strip search was conducted by administration. We only turn to medical assessment if we find clear reason to be concerned for our students' safety and health, which is what occurred in this instance. We never suspended or punished any child for the events and parents were contacted that day.

We care about all our students deeply. We are committed to preserving public trust and we welcome a full and objective assessment. We've engaged with an independent third-party, Ferrara Fiorenza PC, to conduct this review. We ask for patience and objectivity while this occurs.

We realize that even when policies and procedures are followed, that does not preclude those involved, either directly or indirectly, from being affected. The attention drawn by the media has affected those children, their families, our administrators, teachers and the District as a whole. It's important to understand the District is required by law to protect the privacy and personal integrity of our students. It is a responsibility we take seriously. We remain committed to working with these families to support their children's success.

This District continuously strives to improve policies and protocols involving students to promote positive educational environments. We welcome the involvement of the community and will form a committee to review these protocols. The committee will include members of our local faith communities, the Binghamton City School District, parents and members of our partnerships created under the District's existing Community Schools Program.

Our job as educators, administrators and support staff within the district is not to cover up wrong doings. We passionately care about the happiness, safety and achievement of every child in our district. We chose to live and work in Binghamton because of its diversity.

Finally, like most other districts in our region we are closing early due to the weather. Claims to the contrary are misplaced and fail to recognize that our focus remains on the students' safety.

***Educating, empowering and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.***